

Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

18. (currently amended) A terminal comprising:

a ~~contacting~~ contact zone (3) having ~~an insulation piercing slit blade connector SBIPC~~
~~(11)~~ located therein, a longitudinal axis;

a slit blade insulation piercing connector (SBIPC) having a wire receiving slit, said
SBIPC being in said contact zone;

~~an insulating housing (4) formed with having an inlet slot (15) shaped to receive a an~~
~~insulated wire (20), and said housing retaining said SBIPC in said contact zone with a said inlet~~
~~slot being aligned with said wire receiving slit of said SBIPC (12) aligned with said inlet slot~~
~~(15), said SBIPC being retained within said housing (4) safe against accidental contact therewith;~~

a first pair of rib-shaped projections positioned a distance from said SBIPC along said
longitudinal axis, and disposed along opposite edges of said inlet slot;

~~said housing (4) being formed with further comprising two walls spaced apart from one~~
~~another defining a slot or groove-like groove-shaped extension (16) therebetween, said extension~~
~~projecting outward from said at least one inlet slot (15) along said longitudinal axis and having a~~
~~distal end remote from said inlet slot, said which extension (16) is so dimensioned that being~~
~~dimensioned to retain therein a free end of the insulated wire (20) is retained therein secure~~
~~against accidental contact with said free end;~~

~~said terminal (2) being dimensioned to fit within a predetermined raster; and~~

wherein said extension (16) at least in part, has a width which is smaller or at most slightly larger than ~~the nominal~~ an outer diameter of the insulated wire so as to clamp the insulated wire (20) to be connected to said SBIPC (11), including the insulation of said wire (20), and

wherein said extension further comprises a second pair of rib-shaped projections near said distal end to define a reception slot therebetween for the insulated wire.

19. (currently amended) The terminal of claim 18, wherein ~~said contacting zone is formed by a pair of rib like projections (14) facing each other and, together forming said inlet slot; and wherein said terminal is further formed with spaced walls (9, 10) extending away from said SBIPC (11) in a direction essentially perpendicular to said SBIPC along a longitudinal axis (17), said first pair of projections being are integral with said walls (9, 10).~~

20. (currently amended) The terminal of claim ~~19~~ 18, wherein ~~said walls (9, 10) are formed with facing rib like projecting portions (22) defining, between themselves, a reception slot (23) for said wire (20)~~ said second pair of projections are integral with said walls.

21. (currently amended) The terminal of claim ~~20~~ 18, wherein ~~the width of at least one of the space between said projecting portions (22) and at least one of~~ said inlet slot (15) is and said reception slot has a width which is smaller than the nominal outer diameter of the insulated wire (20) including its insulation.

22. (currently amended) The terminal of claim 18, further including a bottom wall (18) formed on said extension (16), said bottom wall being essentially in alignment ~~and equal to~~ ~~the with a bottom edge (19) of an insertion~~ ~~said wire receiving slit (12)~~ ~~of the~~ ~~said~~ SBIPC (11).

23. (currently amended) The terminal of claim 18, further including a closing-wall (27) closing off said distal end of said extension (16) ~~at the side thereof remote from the SBIPC~~.

24. (currently amended) The terminal of claim 23, wherein said ~~closing wall~~ (27) closing-wall is frangible to permit breaking thereof upon introduction of a the insulated wire (20) into said extension (16).

25. (currently amended) The terminal of claim 18, further including ~~removable~~, openable closing means (28) closing off said distal end of said extension (16) ~~at the side remote from the SBIPC~~, said openable closing means (28) being elastically deflectable upon insertion of the insulated wire (20) into said extension.

26. (currently amended) The terminal of claim 18, wherein said ~~housing~~ walls (9, 10), in the region of said ~~groove like~~ extension (16), ~~is~~ are formed with projecting clamping surfaces or guide surfaces (14a) for a the insulated wire to be introduced into the terminal (2).

27. (currently amended) The terminal of claim 26, wherein said clamping surfaces or guide surfaces (14a) comprise integrally formed projecting portions (14a) located at opposite sides of said walls (9, 10) and facing each other.

28. (currently amended) The terminal of claim 27, wherein ~~the said~~ projecting portions ~~are formed with~~ comprise inclined insertion guide surfaces (19).

29. (currently amended) The terminal of claim 18, wherein ~~the outer dimensions of the said housing, at least in the contacting regions of said contact zone (3) and the housing portions said walls defining said delimiting the groove-like extension (16), has outer dimensions which~~ are dimensioned with respect to minimum size required by insulation of adjacent terminals and the required air and creep paths between said adjacent terminals.

30. (currently amended) The terminal of claim 29, wherein ~~the terminal housing includes a plurality of adjacently located terminal positions (3), each having contacting zone; and wherein~~ separating walls (10) between said adjacent ~~terminal positions terminals~~ are dimensioned to be a minimum with respect to required air and creep paths of said adjacent terminals.

31. (currently amended) The terminal of claim 19 18, wherein said first pair of projections (14) ~~defining the inlet slot~~ project with different dimensions at selected positions over their length, so that ~~the said~~ inlet slot (15, 22) ~~defined by said projections will have regions (24) of different widths over its depth with respect to the depth of said slots.~~

32. (currently amended) The terminal of claim 31, wherein ~~said slot or groove-like extension (16)~~ has, with respect to its depth, regions of different widths.

33. (new) A terminal for receiving an insulated wire, comprising:

a slit blade insulation piercing connector (SBIPC) comprising a wire receiving slit;

an insulating housing having a longitudinal axis and a wire insertion side and comprising:

two walls spaced apart to define therebetween a contact zone open to said wire insertion side, wherein said walls retain said SBIPC in said contact zone in an orientation essentially perpendicular to said longitudinal axis, with said wire receiving slit being open to said wire insertion side; and

a first pair of rib-shaped projections at either side of said SBIPC and positioned a distance from said SBIPC, each of said first pairs of projections projecting inward from respective said walls and defining therebetween a wire inlet slot open to said wire insertion side, each said wire inlet slot being aligned with said wire receiving slit and defining a lateral limit of said contact zone,

wherein said walls in the region of said contact zone and said first pairs of projections define a chamber which has an essentially square cross-section, said walls further defining therebetween two groove-shaped extensions, each of said extensions projecting outward from respective said wire inlet slot along said longitudinal axis and being open to said wire insertion side, each of said extensions having a distal end remote from said wire inlet slot, and being dimensioned to retain therein a free end of an insulated wire, and

wherein each said extension has a width which is no more than slightly larger than an outer diameter of the insulated wire so as to clamp the insulated wire therein.

34. (new) The terminal of claim 33, wherein said wire inlet slot has a width less than the outer diameter of the insulated wire.

35. (new) The terminal of claim 33, wherein one of said extensions further has a second pair of rib-shaped projections at its distal end, said second pair of projections each projecting inward from opposite walls, and defining therebetween a wire reception slot which is open to said wire insertion side, and has a width less than the outer diameter of the insulated wire.

36. (new) The terminal of claim 35, wherein the other of said extensions has an end wall closing off its distal end, said end wall being frangible to permit breaking thereof when the insulated wire is pushed onto said end wall.

37. (new) The terminal of claim 35, wherein the other of said extensions has two swingable doors closing off its distal end, said doors being elastically deflectable when the insulated wire is pushed onto said doors.